


Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus Patients in the ICU

Journal of Intensive Care Medicine
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DOI: 10.1177/0885066615598720
jic.sagepub.com


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The recent report on “Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus Patients in ICU” is very interesting.¹ Al-Hameed et al concluded that “Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus carries a high mortality rate in patients who require ICU admission, with a significant number of patients developing Multiorgan System Failure (MOSF) (p. 1).”¹ In fact, the patients with Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) usually have acute respiratory illness that can rapidly progress to severe lower respiratory tract infection and respiratory failure. Based on the report by Al-Hameed et al,¹ it can confirm that the disease has a high mortality rate. It is no doubt that having an underlying disease can be a factor resulting in worse outcome.² However, there are also other factors that can affect the outcome. It is reported that early recognition of the disease, early diagnosis, and early use of antiviral drug can be effectively manage the patients with severe MERS.³ Al-Tawfiq et al noted that “critically ill patients with multiple comorbidities who are diagnosed late in the course of their illness may not benefit from combination antiviral therapy.”⁴ This can

confirm the importance of early diagnosis and prompt treatment for MERS.

References

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Received June 10, 2015. Accepted for publication July 10, 2015.

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